

The Parent's Role in Band

It is important for all students to make a good impression on their parents in all areas of their life. As your child progresses in band you will be able to hear their development in many areas including tone, technique, and music reading skills. It is important that you encourage and promote any and all improvements no matter how small or large they may be.

Concerts are the culmination of many hours of in and out of school rehearsal and practice. Please make sure that your child is able to participate in all concerts! These are not only their final test for all the work done in the classroom, but it is also a chance for them to strut their stuff to you! It means a lot to the students when they know that the audience cares about their performance.

Lastly, you should realize that band is not designed to be a one-year course. It is designed to develop a musician over a period of several years. The rewards for a job well done are not in abundance at the beginning stages. After all the success our high school band has enjoyed over the past years, it is important to remember that all those musicians started out at the same spot as your child is now! There will be numerous chances for success and reward at the older middle school and high school levels, and the students may need to be reminded of this. Promote practice!! Rewards will only come to those who put forth the effort!

Practicing

Practicing an instrument is simply doing an exercise or playing a song until you are confident with your ability to perform that music. Good practice habits result in good musicians. Here are a few tips for good practice:

1. Try to develop a consistent time when you can practice. A well-established routine makes it easier to discipline yourself to practice.
2. Always use good posture and technique when practicing. Remember, it is just as easy to learn bad habits as it is to learn good habits.
3. Practice for short periods of time. Don't practice beyond your attention span. A good 10 minute, concentrated practice session is more beneficial than a 20 or 30 minute session that has a musician's mind wandering off-task.
4. Practice difficult sections in small bits and then put the entire piece

together.

Because practicing is so essential to the development of a good musician, our middle school students may be asked to turn in a practice slip each week. The design of the form may vary throughout the school year as we stress different activities.

The 3 R's of BAND

RESPECT - yourself, your fellow students, your teachers, your school

RESPONSIBILITY - attend rehearsals and lessons prepared

- bring your instrument and music to every rehearsal
- make sure your instrument works properly and has the necessary supplies
- know when your performances are and all the details about each performance
- communicate to your parents
- practice

RESTRAINT - do not chew gum or eat in the band room

- keep from playing other people's instruments

These are just a few examples that apply to these general rules. Most importantly, think and act responsibly.